(a) what is the difference between loan licences and hiring of facilities and whether both are in vogue in the drug industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that quality suffers under loan licence system;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to abolish loan licence system; and

(d) the number of loan licences issued so far and what is the number of parties who are the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Under the provisions of Drug and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, a loan licence means "a licence which a State Licensing Authority may grant to an applicant who does not have his own arrangements for manufacture but who intends to avail himself of the manufacturing facilities owned by the principal licencee." The said Act does not define 'hiring of facilities'.

(b) The State Licensing Authorities were of the view that the loan licensing system was not conductive to production of quality drugs.

(c) and (d) A draft Gazette notification on abolition of loan licensing system was published on 6-11-1991 for eliciting public comments. The comments received by the Government were examined and a draft of the finalized amendment was sought to be published. Meanwhile, many manufacturers and manufacturer's Associations filed writ petitions in various High Courts challenging the decision of the Government to abolish loan licensing system. In certain cases, the courts have issued an injunction restraining the respondents (Government of India and concerned State Licensing Authorities) from directly or indirectly disturbing or interfering with any manner with any of the loan licence arrangements in force as on 31-12-1991 by permitting the petitioners to continue manufacturing in accordance with the said Act and the Rules as in force on 5-11-91 until further orders. Thus the matter is *sub-judice*.

A transfer petition has been filed in the Supreme Court praying for a transfer and withdrawal to itself under Art. 139A of the Constitution of India the writ petitions pending in different High Courts for a common hearing and single disposal. There are about 8000 loan licencees in the country.

Declint in Birth Rates

1826. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme to compensate the States for the actual decline in birth rates rather than the achievements of targets has been mooted by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any allocations for the implementation of the action plans during the year 1992-93; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The existing scheme of cash compensation under which funds are released to the States/Union Territories on the basis of their performance figures of sterilisations/IUD insertions is proposed to be amended and is proposed to be linked to the birth reduction efforts made by them. The modified scheme is being designed to aim at providing greater flexibility to the States/UTs to utilise the funds available under the scheme in the most optimal manner and to ensure wider coverage of younger cou-

ples with greater fertility potential under spacing methods. Full details of the scheme are being worked out.

(c) and (d) No separate allocations for the implementation of the action plan have been made during the year 1992-93. The action plan is a part of the revised strategy aiming at giving a new dynamism and thrust to the Family Welfare Programme in the country and the States/UTs are expected to implement it within the overall resources made available to them under the programme.

Committee on Safe Blood

1827. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee appointed to inquire into the incident involving blood certified as safe turning out to be infected with the AIDS virus has submitted its reports to the Delhi Administration; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings/recommendations made and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Expert Committee has attributed the conflicting test reports on the blood samples getting mixed up or alternatively a remote possibility of getting false negative results. Based on this finding, the Expert Committee has recommended intensive training of personnel working in testing laboratories and close monitoring. Delhi Administration is taking necessary steps to work out uniform standardised procedures for handling, labelling and transporting of the blood samples.

Population Growth

1828. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that raising the statutory marriageable age, both for females and males, has been considered to be one of the effective ways to curb population growth; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issue of raising the statutory marriageable age of both female and male is being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments in the Government of India and the State Governments/UTs Administration.

Illegal sale and encroachment of Pahari Land

1829. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. had lodged FIRs on the 16th Sept., 1988, 18th August, 1988 and 28th August, 1988 with the Ambedkar Nagar Police Station (Madangir) regarding the illegal sale and encroachment of stone bearing Pahari Land with Khasra Nos. 20, 21, 87, 40, 41 and 42 in the revenue estate of Devli Mines;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Police in this regard to stop illegal sale/encroachment of the above land; and